

Impacts of the Tsunami on Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coastal Livelihoods¹

Myanmar

(As of 27th January 2005)

Affected areas

The southern coast of Myanmar was hit by the tsunami around four hours after the earthquake. Unlike the coasts of many other countries in the region where impacts were significant, the Myeik Archipelago reduced the tsunami's force, before it impacted the coast of Tanintharyi Division. On its way to the Ayeyarwaddy coast, the wave had also severely hit the Andaman Islands (India). This probably explains the smaller scale of damage inflicted on the southern areas of Myanmar. The Myanmar coast is also characterized by its hilly geomorphology.

On January 6th 2005, the Tsunami Assistance Coordination Group³ met to consolidate the findings of the different assessment and verification missions undertaken throughout the affected areas of Myanmar. The Coordination Group was set up at the onset of the disaster and chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Group concluded that Myanmar has been largely spared from the destructive forces of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, and that initial emergency needs have been met by the Government and by the aid community.



Figure 1: Map of affected areas in southern Myanmar

¹ **Disclaimer:** This report has been jointly developed by staff from NACA, FAO, SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO for internal use. Every possible effort has been made, considering the circumstances, to verify the information. The report is considered appropriate at the time of its preparation. It will be updated as appropriate in the light of further knowledge gained at subsequent stages of evolution of the situation. The Organizations concerned make no warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or content of the material, text and any graphics in this information product. FAO also declines all responsibility for updating the material and assumes no responsibility for errors and omissions in the material provided in the information product.

² Not all **sources of data** used in this report are known, but where they are, they have been duly attributed.

³ Coordination Group participants: IFRC, ICRC, MRCS, UNRC, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNIC, UNHCR, MSF(CH), MSF(Holland), World Vision, CARE, SCF(UK), PSI, ZOA, ADRA.

Table 1: Government figures of tsunami impacts

Dead	Injured	Missing	Displaced	Notes
61	43	1	3,205	592 houses in 17 villages destroyed, and 638 households homeless.

The Group's assessment of the scale of impact is in line with the Government's own findings. The Group confirms a death toll of 60-80, and estimates the longer-term affected population at 10-15,000, of whom 5-7,000 are directly affected.

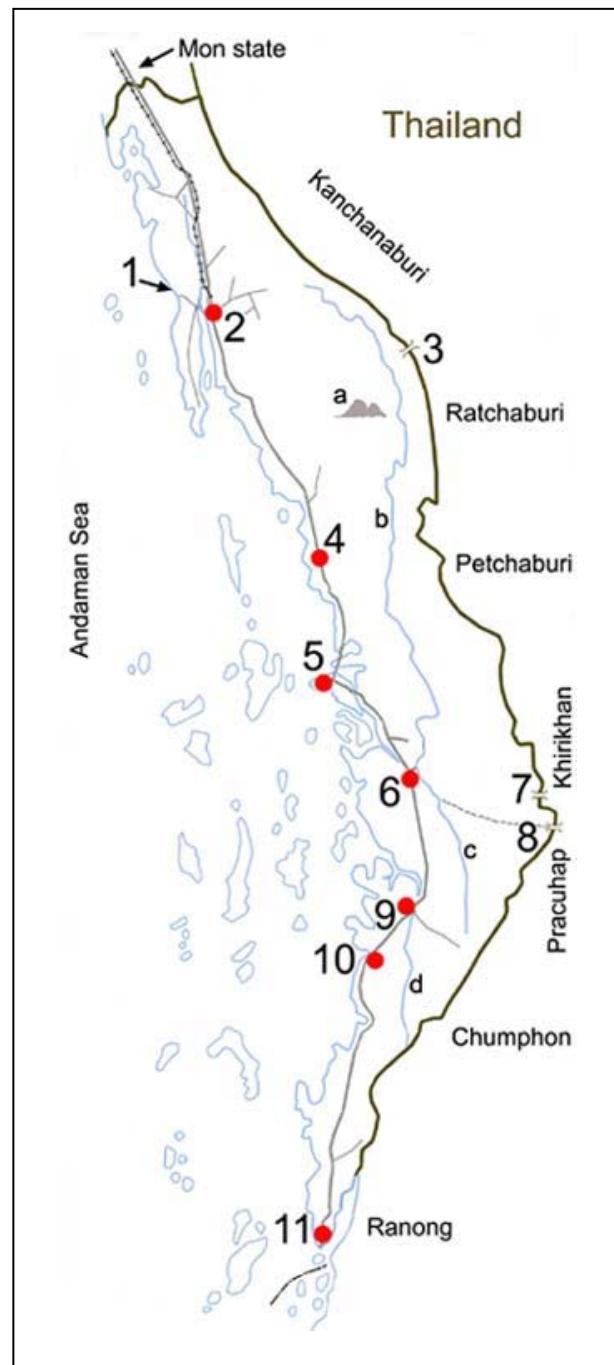
There is very little information relating to the impact on fishing communities in affected areas. Current reports indicate relatively little and mostly localized damage. Perhaps of greater concern are the losses of Myanmar citizens who were working as migrant labour in Thailand in aquaculture operations (shrimp farms and shrimp hatcheries) as well as on fishing vessels.

Figure 2: Map of Thaninthayi Division

- 1 = Maung Magan beach
- 2 = Dawei
- 3 = Amyar pass (to Thailand's Kanchanaburi province)
- 4 = Palaw
- 5 = Myeik
- 6 = Taninthary
- 7 = Kalama pass (to Thailand's Prachuap Khirikhan province)
- 8 = Mot pass
- 9 = Le-Nya
- 10 = Bok Pyin
- 11 = Kaw Thaung (border town)

- a = Myintmo Lakhat mountain (2073 meters)
- b = The Great Thaninthayi river
- c = The Little Thaninthayi river
- d = Le Nya river

Source: <http://www.asterism.info/states/1/map.html>



Fisheries impacts

Information on the impacts on fishing communities is still limited, except for the knowledge that most or all of the 17 villages impacted by the tsunami were fishing villages. However, some detailed data is now being to emerge, as shown below:

- In the Tanintharyi Division (Southern Coast), inshore fishing vessel damage/loss is estimated at: 44 (10 from Aywar Gyi village, 1 from Kan Pon Mar Yan village, 30 from Aung Bar village and 3 from Thiri Myain Block in Kawthoung Township)
- In Kawthaung, Thanintharyi Division, there were 8 dead, 95 households damaged and 560 persons affected
- In Rakhine State (western Coast) the following impacts have been recorded: Yae Kyun village in Man Aung Township 2 fishers death; Kwan Aing village in Yan Byae Township 4 deaths during collecting mollusks on the beach; Zin Choung village in Kyauk Pyu Township 2 deaths during fishing.
- In Auegyi village, a loss of 10 boats has been reported⁴

A mission of SEAFDEC members is currently in Myanmar and will shortly be reporting back to the CONSRN consortium on its findings.

Aquaculture

There is reportedly very little aquaculture practiced along the impacted coastline.

Impact and needs assessment

FAO is taking part in a series of assessments conducted by UN agencies. Two national consultants, one for agriculture and another for fisheries, have been recruited to participate in the UN Country Team joint assessment mission and to prepare a country profile for mid- and long-term donor assistance.

The Tsunami Assistance Coordination Group (January 6th 2005) concluded that future coordination and planning will be ensured by a small liaison group following up on a second assessment phase for mid- and longer-term needs and support. Initial assessments point to a longer-term impact on livelihoods and community coping mechanisms. The aid partners will ensure particular attention is paid to clean water sources, damage to soil and crops, destruction or damage to houses, fishing boats and nets. They will also pay attention to disease surveillance and response, and access to health care, education infrastructure and services, community services and communications, and the needs of particularly vulnerable groups within the affected population. The resources needed to cover replenishment costs of the initial response as well as the financial requirements for the mid- to long-term recovery will be made available as soon as the second round of assessments are completed.

Government & international assistance programs

WFP has used boats to move food aid from its existing stocks in Yangon to areas impacted by the tsunami. The two boats are carrying beans and cooking oil to Kaw Thaung region in the south as well as the impacted area of the Irrawaddy Delta, where the aid is distributed by WFP's partner ADRA. Rice, which is relatively inexpensive compared to the other commodities, will be purchased locally. Food distribution to 80 families through WFPs partner World Vision has been taking place

⁴ Ago Borra (WHO Representative, RC a.i.), Carroll Long (UNICEF Representative), Akiko Suzuki (UNDP DRR) joint mission 14-15 January 2005

in the Kaw Thaung area. WFP will give food aid to a total of 15,000 tsunami-affected people. (WFP 13th January, www.reliefweb.int)

Key information resources

- Reliefweb – <http://reliefweb.int>
- <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&paia=2&iso3=MMR>

References

- UN agency reports